WENDELL POST

Vol. XII No. 4 December '89 January '90 50¢

Do You Know Where Your Mail is?

The Wendell Post Office's move to the new addition at Wendell Country Store--scheduled for December 16--will create Wendell's first "mall" since the post office and store shared the same roof at Mrs. Lewis' house on the Common in the 1930's.

Having gotten that threatening thought out of our system be putting it into historical perspective, let's take a look at the new postal facility and what it will mean for its patrons and Wendell.

It will shift the focus of coming-and-going activity strongly toward the store, activity which was formerly split between the Common (Town Hall, post office and--until recently--fire station) and the store. Of course, the activity generated by a town of some 350 households isn't so very much.

Rural route patrons of the postal service won't notice any changes, with the possible exception (according to Len Rooke, officer in charge) of those located between the former and the new post office. They'll soon be instructed of their options, but speculatively they may include later delivery, relocating their mailboxes to the other side of the road, or changing their post office to Wendell Depot.

For boxholders, the beige-and-brown lobby is larger, so more than three people can fit in without the "Pardon me"'s and claustrophobia comments now heard. Hours will be extended, with window service available until 1 pm, and there will be a stamp vending machine and a billchanger. The boxes will be accessible all day, without closing for a few hours at mid-day, as in the old office. And there will be over 600 of them, in case anybody wants to rent several (rents start at $6.50 per year, same as now), and outside boxes in addition, including a parcel locker. Two parking spaces will be marked for handicapped, and two to four others in front of the postal wing (others in front of the store itself).

Cheryl Perkins, owner of Wendell Country Store and landlady for the new postal facility, hopes the presence of the post office will increase business in her restaurant and grocery/deli/convenience/video store.

Coincidentally with preparations for this move, Benjamin ("Bennie") Borowski, postmaster for the past two years, took a new assignment as postmaster of the Southampton post office, nearer his Westfield home.

NEW HOURS

Lobby Hours:	7:30 am - 5 pm
Window Hours:	7:30 am - 1 pm
	2:30 pm - 5 pm

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Wendell Star Route Riders ☆☆☆

Wendell Star Route Riders is on the horizon! We are beginning to get glimpses of a ridesharing network emerging. This really good idea is no longer in the distant sky but is actually beginning to take shape in our town.

Here are some preliminary ideas:

1. create a ridesharing network whereby commuters and riders could be connected to each other through a dispatcher person who relays info about commuting schedules to either drivers wanting more riders or riders wanting transportation. Sharing expenses through donations or other means would be encouraged.
2. Errand runs to local centers could be organized on a weeekly basis.
3. Outposts, weather protected stations, could be erected in convenient locations for pick-up and drop-off stops.

A survey will be sent out to each household to see what the interest in such a network might be, to find out travel patternsand to elicit ideas and suggestions for how this service could best serve the needs and interests of all our residents.

We have $500.00 to start this venture. This money is from the Steven Gardescu Memorial Fund. Steven was killedby light-

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the Wendell Post

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Special thanks to Marcy Marchello for front page artwork.

***Post policy is that every article be signed. We regret author credit omissions where authorship unknown.

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Wendell
Places of the Heart Survey

Goal

To preserve Wendell's valued life styles, traditions, landscapes and community places.

Problem

The most important features and characteristics of a community can easily be overlooked in planning for the future. They may be obvious to everyone, and thus taken for granted, or they may be subtle, and thus difficult to name or describe.

Approach

Gather individual citizens' identification and description of community use patterns and cherished places—"Wendell's sacred community structure"—to insure that what is valued today will be included in a vision and plan for Wendell's future.

Comment

The trust you extend to your community by identifying the "places of your heart" has the potential to increase your pride, involvement and understanding of your community. How does what you value compare with what others value? Is there a collective vision?

Unlike recent Wendell surveys, the intention here is to identify specific places, activities, feelings, things that are important to **YOU**. The Post Office steps, the back room at the fire hall, a rock, a road intersection, a stream or portion of one, a woodland trail, a view, a town activity, a feeling you get from a familiar place—all are legitimate answers.

- Watch in January for survey and coming "Vision Workshop".
- Call Kathleen Ramsey for more information at 544-3395.

Land Transfers

9/6/89 Bardsley, David F. & Sandra L. & Bardsley, Frederick R., Sr. to Wilder, David E. & Judith A. Wendell Depot Road - 57 acres

9/28/89 Wirth, Helen D. to Zera, Peter S. & Laura L. - two-thirds interest and to Kosuda, Stephen J., one-third interest Locks Village Road -5.4780 acres

Local Handicrafts Sold in Market

Every weekend, in flea market not far from Wendell Depot, Rosalie Rosser sells crafts made by Wendell people. The place is called Bailey's Flea Market, and it's on W. River Street in Orange. It's open Saturdays and Sundays.

In Rosalies booth are silk scarves hand painted in naturistic designs by Phyllis Brooks, and elaborately illustrated notecards and stationery by Marcie Marchello. Jewelry by both Terry Murphy and Howard Clark shares space alongside Rosalie's own work--knitted hats and other textile gift items. On the walls of the corner booth hang local scenes painted on slate and wood by Marilyn Morin.

There are wind chimes by Deva and pottery by Pauline Mountain Bird, both of New Salem and needlepoint by Joyce Wonka of Orange. Kumba's hand-pressed scented oils are for sale in attractive little bottles. A wooden toy by Bob Rosser shows the maker's sense of humor: a penguin on wheels at the end of a stick. When it's rolled, rubber feet flap in an endearing, penguinlike manner.

Jonathan von Ranson

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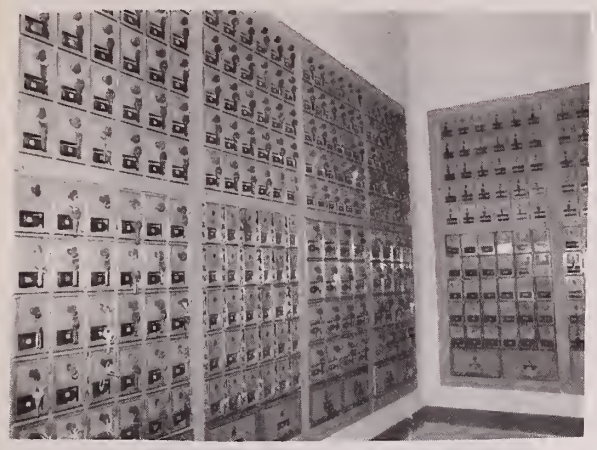


No shortage of boxes in the new post office.

Poll: Paying to Dump

Most of the people surveyed at the Recycling and Transfer Station felt positive about the new system of paying for disposal by the bag. They made comments such as, "I prefer a system based on use" or "Something had to be done and this seems fair" or "People have to learn to pay for their trash." However, people who dislike the system, hate it. Some comments were, "It feels lousy coming here" and "I feel like I'm being coerced into recycling."

Everyone who came to the RATS during four hours on Saturday, November 18, and two hours on Tuesday, November 21, was asked to rate the system on this scale: 1) very postive; 2) somewhat positive; 3) neutral; 4) somewhat negative; 5) very negative. Each was also asked, "Are you putting more effort into recycling since the pay system began?" Thirth-five people were asked and thirty-three answered both questions.

The rating scale results were:

Very Positive	29%
Somewhat Positive	27%
Neutral	21%
Somewhat Negative	0%
Very Negative	23%

People who were somewhat positive or neutral suggested that, "The Board of Health should have done more thinking and planning to start out" and that "there's room for improvement in the system." One person said, "It's a good system, it's the paying I hate!" Another felt that the system discriminates against poor people "who have trouble coming up with a lump sum payment."

The results for the recycling question were:

More effort into recycling	50%
Recycled everything before, anyway,	44%
Recycling less or not recycling	6%

Many people said they were being much more careful about recycling-"I was a good recycler before, but I'm better now." Many indicated that, with the beginning of woodstove season, they were burning a lot of boxes and paper.

This survey sampled only a small number of householders, so it may not be representative of the whole town. It also represents only those who use RATS/ Many people had noticed increased roadside dumping, and one person asked, "What can you do if you know a neighbor is dumping in their back yard?"

Katie Nolan

A Good Look at Maple Valley

Even before I began working at Maple Valley, I'd been wanting to write because Maple Valley has been a local presence for many years and yet we locals know so little about it.

I knew it was a residential school for teenage boys who'd been in various stages of trouble. But I didn't think it fair for us to only learn of our neighbors when there was strife. I felt like the school and its residents needed personification, introduction to round out their image and inform us as to what transpired there besides a single line entry in the Police Log.

It has been three months since I began teaching Language Arts there, and now I feel prepared to write.

This residential school is Wendell's largest employer and, in fact, employs many Wendell residents. I love my work and the people I work with, yet all this means nothing were it not for the endearing, young men whom I teach and spend so much time with, these young men who come to us from varied backgrounds, all of whom have encountered difficulties in their young lives and now are willing (or legally compelled) to resolve their debts to society, family, and themselves.

Maple Valley is now known as Lake Grove Maple Valley and is one of several similar schools owned and managed by a private corporation based on Long Island, New York. But locally it is a residential and scholastic program for approximately thirty three 13-18 year old youths.

There are scores of staff ... academic and residential. The Wednesday before Thanksgiving at 10:30 a.m., I watched a coed student-staff flag football game on the town lawn. A wishful part of me wanted to play; but where and when I grew up, girls did not play such sports, and I'm reluctant to start at 43. (Wait til soccer season.) Nevertheless, I had a good time observing the valor on the field and the antics on the sidelines (sardining frozen bodies into my car).

What I love at Maple Valley is that each person brings a particular skill and enthusiasm to the job. Running, flying, biking, gardening, computers, books, talking, math, writing, art, cooking, family skills, friendship, music, crafts ...

Some of the boys are family for each other. I'll look at them in the depths of an argument and be reminded of my own children in similar poses over identical issues. "You fight like brothers!"

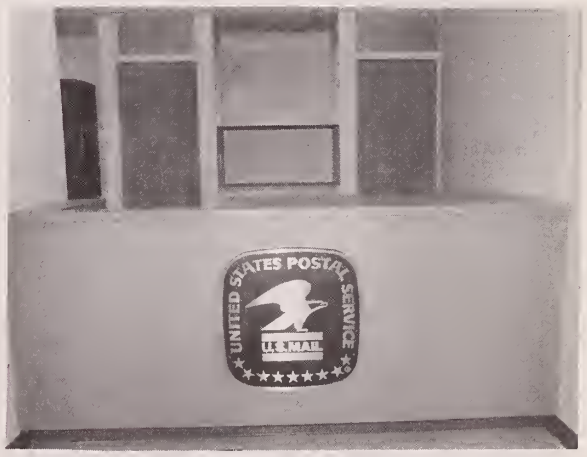
Sometimes the quality of relationships is inspiring, sometimes so fleet. I am hooked on my students. It happens every year to teachers, or they most likely move on or well should.

It's a hard job!! Long hours for me who has a family, a farm, a responsibility to this town. Someone, something suffers the deficit. My family tells me how little time I have any more.

Yet here I sit this Thanksgiving Eve, my daughter making nice ice cream noises next to me as I write this. She talks intermittently and does not mind my double focus. I listen to her; we stop and talk; I write. A new idea diverts me: the kids who wrote the following articles and how they are unique, the kids at the school this weekend who have to work harder to earn points to go home for Christmas, the fabulous feast the kitchen staff prepared and we ate in the Town Hall, the teasing about recycling in Wendell and my recycling program in class. "Don't throw out your tissues; let Nina recycle them!" At least they're getting the point, some for the first time.

And finally my relief that the students, residents, and staff will be represented by more than a single line entry in the Wendell Post Police Log that set a lot of kids to thinking how to connect to the community and be represented by their own positive attitudes and acts.

Nina Keller



Service window of the beige-and-brown postal lobby.

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Wendell Cub Scouts

When I was about 8 years old, I thought I was pretty lucky to have my mother for a Den Mother. It was an exciting time of life, and an exciting time of the week when all my buddies came home to my house for the weekly Den Meeting. I signed up for the Cub Scouts because I thought it would be fun, and it was. Looking back on it, I think it was the collection of people that made Cubs so interesting. When any more than three or four young folks gather for a meeting, the results are somewhat like an atomic chain reaction. The more Cubs there are and the closer they get, the higher the energy level riises. If all goes well, the energy can be put to some creative use, if not... well, I think my mother was hoping to contain the energy and create some of the peaceful uses of atomic power.

Today, I am what's called a Cub Scout leader. I say "called" because I know for sure that much of the time the Cub Scouts are doing the leading. This is particularly true on a hike, when the boudlesss energy of the young ones, and their exploratory na ture, leads them up the hill first. But it is also true in many of our other activities, when a Cub Scout often comes up with an idea or a way or doing something that is truly inventive or creative. Scouting creates a good context for this king of creativity, because we're often out in the woods or somewhere where they're aren't many tools, or distractions (like television) available, and so our inventiveness is really called upon. At such times it has been very thrilling to hear some of the brainstorms of these younger people. One may have an idea for a hiding place, or a way to build something, another may recognize and owl dropping left on a rock that the "leaders" may have stepped over.

I think it's especially rewarding to be a part of the Wendell-New Salem Scouting program. We have natural surroundings here that are ideal for so many outdoor adventures-- I'm glad to have the Cub Scouts as an excuse to explore so many places. Also, much of the Cub philosophy is based on community, and we are lucky to live in an area that has a real com munity spirit that supports the Cubs, and to which the Cubs can contribute.

In our first year of leading the den, we started a little late but wanted to go on a camping trip anyway, so we ventured out into the Wendell woods in November for a night with nature, While the leaders were happy to snuggle into their tents when the campfire went out, the Cubs wanted to stay under the stars. They found a little pocket of pine needles under some short pine trees to spread out their sleeping bags. By midnight the temperature was below ten degrees and the scouts had pulled closer and closer until they were in a pile. We all learned the meaning of the old expression "porcupine pile." In the morning they were all still alive, although one boy had iced hair. I don't think any of us will forget that night, and the friendships we made around the campfire, and we're all looking forward to the next time, although we may change the month.

Cleaning the River

On Monday November 20th a news conference was held at the Erving waste water treatment plant to announce that a court settlement had been reached between environmental groups, the Town of Erving and Erving Paper Mills, in which the town and the company agreed to set up a "pretreatment program" to prevent excessive discharges of pollutants into the Millers River.

In February of 1988 a Clean Water Act citizen suit was filed by the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group (MASSPIRG), the Connecticut River Watershed Council, the Millers River Watershed Council, and the Massachusetts-Rhode Island Council of Trout Unlimited. The groups were represented by the MASSPIRG-affiliated Public Interest Litigation Project.

Three years ago, the groups learned that Erving Paper Mills was discharging large amounts of naphthalene, a toxic chemical, into the Town of Erving's waste water treatment plant. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, toxic chemicals such as naphthalene may pass through the treatment plant to contanimate the Millers River and the town's sludge landfill.

Erving Paper Mills manufactures bulk tissue paper and tissue products made from recycled paper. The mill uses over 150 tons a day of waste paper collection from all over the East Coast. The company operates the wastewater treatment plant and contributes 98 percent of the wastewater treated by the plant.

"We filed the lawsuit because there was no mechanism in place to control what Erving Paper Mills was discharging into the town's treatment plant," said Margie Alt, MASSPIRG's Toxic Programs Director. "Towns such as Erving, which accept large quantities of potentially harmful industrial wastes, are required to have a pretreatment program to regulate their industrial users," she added.

Carolyn "China" Hulslander is the new Clerk of the Selectboard.

The parties negotiated a settlement of the lawsuit after nearly two years of analyses of wastes discharged by the Erving Paper Mills into the town's treatment plant, evaluations of the plant's ability to treat the wastes properly, and increasing monitoring and remediation of the landfill.

Henry Waidlich, of the Millers River Watershed Council and Connecticut River Watershed Council noted that communities such as Erving could avoid the costs and aggravation associated with litigation by complying with the law in the first place.

For more information contact:
Charles Caldart or Anna Aurilio at MASSPIRG #617-292-4800

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~Letters~

The reason I'm doing this article is because a lot of rumors have been spread about Lake Grove Maple Valley. I'm a student here. I've been here since February of 1989. Since I've been here, a lot has changed ... a lot of good things and a lot of bad things. I realize how some local people might feel having a school with kids you don't know real well. Since it's a small town, many people are close together and know each other. Having people you don't know, you're liable (in my opinion) not to trust them.

Things have happened in the past at the school to give it a bad reputation. So you might not give the kids a chance to prove themselves because they have already done the damage. But this school has kids coming and going. All the ones that are bad don't stay here for long. They get transferred, and then someone new comes along. So it's not the school that's doing anything to the community; it's the students with negative attitudes; and students with negative attitudes don't stay here very long. So there's nothing to worry about. What I'm saying is (maybe) some people should give us positive kids a chance because it is not all of us. It's certain people that the school can't deal with that give us a bad reputation. The school is not all that bad; it's at least 90% good!

So I'd like to emphasize the good things about Maple Valley. Every kid here has a problem they need to work on, and the staff here are helping us do that by running groups like Survivors Group, Substance Abuse Group, Children of Alcoholics Group, etc.

Also, we have jobs here in the summer to keep us busy, like carpentry, bike repair, grounds and painting, etc. We have recreational activities, too, like bike riding with Brad (local), hiking with Scott R. (local), gardening and photography with Christine (local), and art with Nina K. (local). We try to keep busy here and stay out of trouble. Next issue I'll tell you more about the recreation system at Maple Valley.

Shawn Fisher

Dear Wendell Post:

I think Lake Grove Maple Valley is a good place, and they treat us students very well. We get to go on recreation trips and go swimming and other places. I think the people at Maple Valley should be able to go any place where they want and not be called names or have wrong things said about the kids and staff that work there. I think that it is good that none of the staff or kids have been name called.

Sometimes a kid will get mad and go off; then one of the staff or other kids will talk to the person that is having the problem. I think that is really good, and that is all I have to say about Maple Valley. It is a good place. Thank you for publishing my letter.

David Sims

Dear Swift River School Staff:

For the time you believed my son when he told you his dog ate the library book, thank you. It was the truth.

For the countless number of times you said, "I just can't" to your own families' needs because you were involved in something with our children, thank you.

For the time you saw that little girl nervously sitting in the school office and you sat down and smiled and told her your best joke, thank you Swift River staff.

For the times you went into work even though you weren't feeling well;

For the times you missed your lunch so that you could give a child an extra fifteen minutes of attention;

For the hours of sleep you have lost worrying about the child that is having a problem;

For your patience, your understanding, and your caring day in and day out, thank you.

Every morning when our children get up happy and eager to go to school, we have you all to thank, from the sunshiny staff in the cafeteria and the maintenance people, the secretary, school nurse, psychologist, and principal to the fantastic teachers.

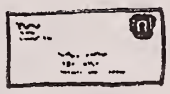
You make me wish I were back in elementary school again!

A Wendell Parent

Last August there was a terrible electrical storm that hit Wendell very hard. During that storm, my dog Benji was killed. And as his body lay smouldering in the live wires that could not be reached, many kindly neighbors and friends came immediately to my assistance. Inasmuch as the scene in my backyard looked bizarre, I could only think of how Indians and ancient civilizations cremated as an offering in respect to the living being that had passed on.

To those friends, neighbors of compassion and kindliness, I offer my greatest of thanks. The burdens of those hours were a lot less because of you. Wendell is a great town because of its sense of community. It's nice to know that kind of communication still exists. Again, many thanks.

Daria Neilson



To the Editor

If the Internal Revenue Service is going to seize the houses of people like Betsy Corner and Randy Kehler, and more recently Bob Bady and Pat Morse, then they should seize ours as well.

Since 1981, we have refused to pay our federal income taxes. We had come to understand then the connection between our labor and the violence and repression perpetrated by the United States government. We asked ourselves, "How could we be opposed to the bloodshed in Central America and the proliferation of nuclear weapons and yet finance these things through the federal income tax?" The answer for us was clear. No longer would we support with tax dollars a government whose main budget priority is war and the preparation for war.

It wasn't without trepidation that we undertook this stand. Like most people, we aspired to starting a family, building a home, and creating a financially comfortable future. But the hopes and security of our family couldn't rest on the stolen hopes, dreams, and lives of families across our borders.

Now, almost eight years later, our dear friends' houses have been seized and put up for auction by the I.R.S. In the Soviet Union, dissidents are whisked away to psychiatric wards. Here, economic punitive measures serve the same purpose. Perhaps the I.R.S. believes that seizing these houses in Colrain will discourage other protesters from war tax resistance.

We choose, however, to publicly support our friends in the best way possible: to follow their example. Their resolve inspires us to continue to say no to war taxes.

We feel proud to stand with Randy, Betsy, Lillian, Pat, Bob, and Casey and hope that others will join our ranks.

Sincerely,
Stephen Broll
Eileen Sauvageau

Wendell Riders
Continued from front page

ening this past summer in Wendell. Steven not only enjoyed creating solutions to shared problems but he also did the nitty-gritty ground work to make cooperative ideas a reality. We think Steven would like this idea alot.

Wendell was a leader in the county for starting to recycle early on. Folk recognized the need to conserve resources and initiated a volunteer recycling program. Now that the solid waste crisis has arrived, Wendell is far more prepared to deal with the kinds of changes that is required of all citizens now.

Once again Wendell could lead the way through a ridesharing network by anticipating how our carpooling could decrease fuel consumption, resource uses and alleviate air pollution (acid rain, ozone and air quality) problems. We can create the kind of community interdependence that might be our most valued resource in days to come.

So fill out your surveys when they come in the mail and return them along with any other comments or ideas.

Joyce Greenberg

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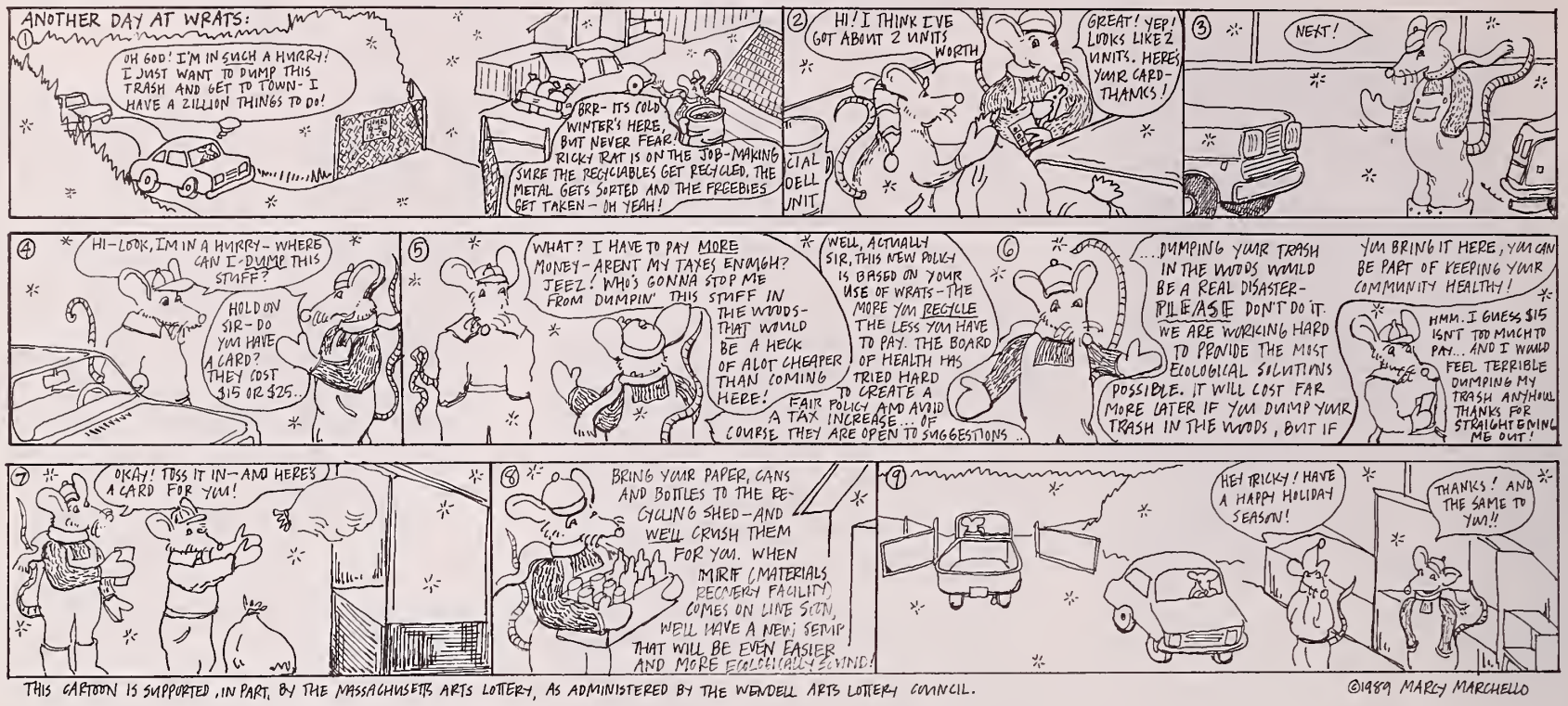

the R.A.T.S.

A dump should be a place where you can take anything you no longer want, things broken, or dangerous, or used up. That is what a dump is, and for a long time that was how the Wendell dump operated. What one person threw out, often another wanted; and a prosperous trade took place. What was not scavenged was buried and forgotten.

It worked well, but the nature of trash changed; and our understanding of the world changed. Chemicals were discovered seeping from their burial sites down into the ground water. Trash now contains chemicals that were not even known 50 years ago; the amount of leftovers that were being buried increased drastically.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts ordered Wendell to close its landfill because it is uphill from a wetland. We followed Massachusetts' instructions and started shipping most of our trash to a legal landfill in Chicopee, lined to prevent seepage, but we did not close our landfill to brush and construction debris until this spring. The metal pile which once provided scavenging fun for children and adults alike had grown into an unmanageable monster.

The cost of moving our trash to Chicopee and the fee for leaving it there increased so drastically that we started recycling glass and paper. Other towns faced with similar problems made similar choices, and the price of recycled materials dropped; we had to pay to recycle, but the cost to recycle was still less than the cost of plain disposal, and we continued to recycle. We signed up for the incinerator HERCO, which was stopped before it was built. We joined the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, which is still meeting and planning. We joined the Commonwealth operated MRF (murf, Material Recovery Facility) which is scheduled to open in Springfield in the middle of January, and which will accept unsorted cans and glass, and mixed paper, including cardboard and corrugated board, making recycling much easier than it has been before. We were awarded a grant with Orange to encourage recycling and to prepare both towns for the MRF containers.

The MRF has given Wendell 300 household containers to encourage and facilitate home recycling. These containers will be distributed at the R.A.T.S. in mid December with a flier explaining the operation and needs of MRF. A large, rolloff container, also supplied by the MRF, will be at the R.A.T.S. in January, although final site work cannot begin until Spring.

The Board of Health adopted a proposal in October putting the cost of operating the R.A.T.S. more fairly onto those who dispose of the most, who fail to reduce their trash by recycling, re-using, and composting. MRFed materials will be free. Money collected goes into the town general fund, not the Board of Health, so the Board will have to request their entire operating expense, as they have always done.

Since there have been fees at the R.A.T.S., more trash has appeared in informal roadside dumps; this was not the intention of the fee system.

Appliances, old furniture, tires, and hazardous waste are not really accommodated by our new R.A.T.S. Appliances are accepted with a $10 fee to cover dismantling and disposal. If you dismantle the machine yourself and sort its pieces into the proper places, you can save the fee. Old furniture has to be dismantled and sorted; a list of places that will accept used but good furniture will be available. Tires must go back to the dealers, who mostly store them. Hazardous waste must wait until the annual collection day, which means they are around the house for up to a year. Right now there is no place for construction debris; the open top, perhaps.

The R.A.T.S. does not fulfill all the needs, as the old dump and landfill did. Until it fills those needs, without the environmental costs of the old way, the Board of Health, the Recycling Committee, and the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District have work to do. Help and suggestions are always appreciated.

Joshua Heinemann

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Pageant, carolling and services in offing at Wendell Meetinghouse.

Wendell Church

The traditional Christmas Pageant will be presented Sunday, December 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the Wendell Meetinghouse. Children will represent the characters in the story of the birth of Jesus, while various members read the Biblical passages aloud and everyone sings carols. In keeping with Mary and Joseph's search for shelter, the theme of the Pageant will be homelessness; and a collection will be taken for a local shelter. At the end of the Pageant, cider and cookies will be served.

On December 24, instead of the regular 11:30 a.m. service, church members and other interested people will gather at the Meetinghouse to go caroling in town. People who would enjoy being caroled to should contact Sylvia Wetherby.

****

Because there are few church members and because heating, maintaining, and insuring, the Meetinghouse is costly, church members are asking local groups that use the building to pay for their use of it. Contact Parker Cleveland for more information.

****

Wendell church meetings are held Sundays at 11:30 a.m., in the following monthly pattern:

First Sunday - Communion Service, Business Meeting

Second Sunday - Celebration of the Spirit as the spirit wills, led by the people

Third Sunday - Peace and Justice Committee event

Fourth Sunday - Service

For more information, contact Carole Ann Camp, minister, 413-665-3750.

Katie Nolan

Support Groups

Several free support groups meet regularly in the Athol Memorial Hospital conference room. These programs provide a caring atmosphere where people can meet o others who share an ailment or problem.

The following are the programs offered at AMH:

Cancer Support Group, for people with cancer and their families, led by Jo Ellen Janowitz, LICSW, director of social services. The group meets at 7 p.m. the fourth Monday of every month.

Bereavement Support Group, a compassionate environment for people who want help coping with death, led by Suzanne Saven, LCSW, social service department. The group meets from 7 - 8:30 a.m. the fourth Wednesday of every month.

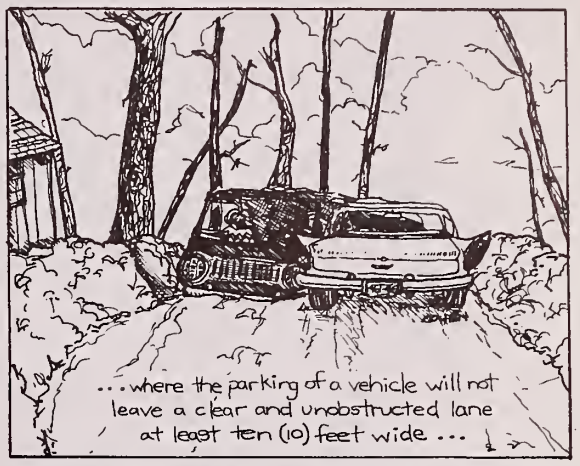
Alzheimer's Disease Support Group, emotional and practical support to help individuals and families who seek information and help while caring for an elderly family member, led by Jo Ellen Janowitz. The group meets from 4 - 6 p.m. the second Wednesday of every month.

Diabetes Support Group, sharing and caring, led by Betty Lang, MSRD, AMH dietitian and Barbara Linker, LPN. The group meets from 7 - 8 p.m. the third Tuesday of every month.

Better Breathers Club, for adults with breathing problems and lung ailments such as emphysema, chronic bronchitis and asthma, led by Kathy Fuller, director of cardiopulmonary services. The group will start up again in the Spring, meeting on the second Thursday of every month at 1:30 p.m.

In addition, the hospital sponsors a breastclinic, featuring low-cost ($50) low-radiation mammograms plus instruction in self-examination. Last Wednesday of every month, 1 - 8 p.m. Conducted by female staff, including chief of radiology Shameem Menon, M.D. Walk-in or call for reservation (249-3511, ext. 135 or 180).

Contact: Allen Young, director of public relations 2033 Main St., Athol MA 01330, Tel (508) 249-3511 Ext. 188



REMEMBER: Make a place for yourself and your guests to PARK OFF THE STREET!

Rosemary in Winter

Lovely lady dressed in blue
sky flowers adorn your tresses,
As you open and reflect
the beauty of the heavens

The garden bare and frozen stands
to wait through winter's chill,
As you stand gazing
from within
remembering what you will,

Of rocky cliffs and sea-mist mornings
Cloudless days you scent
the breeze and
tease unknowing
sailors mooring
miles from the harvester
trimming your greens,

Who bears your boughs
as she sings her joy
in the treasure she carries
the gift that she brings.

Of the fragrance and healing
you gently breathe
And deep, sleeping memories
you whisper
And wreaths
of evergreen branches
Circle woven
and cherished

In this Nothland
our home where
in beauty and grace
A vigil you keep
through the deepening Night,
Warming heart and home
in your radiant Light of Life!

Kate Gilday

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Traveling School Helps at Homestead

This is the work-study group that visited the Bear Mountain home of Jonathan von Ranson and Susan DunLany recently.

Susan and I were visited one recent fall weekend by a busload of students studying the toughest subjects of all: civilization, nature ... and their own selves (not only to understand these things separately, but to integrate them). Their travelling college, the National Audubon Society Expedition Institute, spends fall,winter and spring investigating problems and solutions relating to humans on Earth. They were here to work and talk for a couple of days with us as back-to-the-landers.

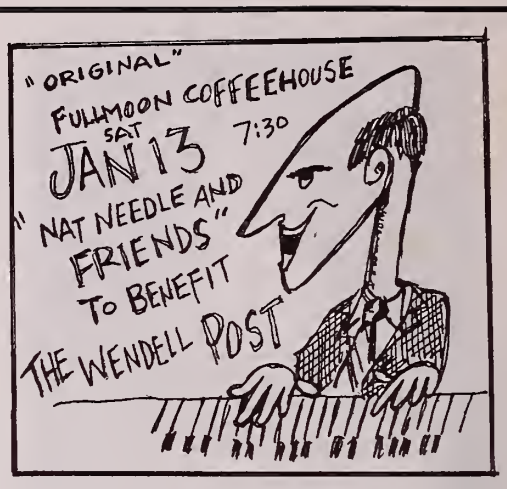
Twenty three of them, ages 17-44, about evenly divided between the sexes, walked the two miles in Saturday at dusk. They cooked their own supper and, without fanfare, settled into the nooks and crannies of our homestead. Most of the cold-hardened group ended up in puffy sleeping bags under tarps strung between trees. Some sardined into the workshop and loft; one slept in the stable beside our bemused goat, Buda. The ground froze, but the next morning after breakfast all 23 appeared, in functioning form, for a day of work.

The group's decision to offer this work in exchange for a visit had been made by consensus weeks before. It struck us as a very satisfactory deal when our friend, Barry Auskern, one of the Expedition's leaders, suggested it; and it does even more now. During the visit, too, the decisions about everything were made by consensus, a rather familiar and easy process for this group, though I noticed some seldom spoke up. (The listening required sharpens one's quality of attention to everything, I imagine.)

Susan led a firewood crew off to an area where we'd stashed bowsaws and splitting axes, and where trees lay already felled and partially bucked. She answered questions about logging and forestry as the elves ... as I couldn't help thinking of our helpers ... by hand cut and split up what was needed to round out our year's firewood supply.

As they worked in the shadows of a remote northeast slope, I supervised a crew for major garden improvements. Ten or so workers built boxes for raised beds, dug ditches, and composted and turned over the garden under cold, sunny skies. What was accomplished in one day would otherwise have taken us easily ten days or two weeks.

Nighttimes both Saturday and Sunday gave Susan and me the most, though. We all lounged around the living room and talked, preceded by some of the richest, most affirmative music a person can marinate his thirsty soul in. As Susan and I fielded questions it moved us to realize how well they grasped the vision manifested in our way of life, and how subtly they appreciated the personal consequences and the broader ... still mostly theoretical ... implications of Stoneoak. I felt more like an artist than a woodsman and gardener; and my ego would've undoubtedly taken flight if it hadn't been for the even greater appreciation I felt for these wise young eyes and the humbling breadth of their vision. This familiarity with the ecology of feeling ... this seeming spiritual healthiness despite the best efforts of their culture ... strikes me as what will secure whatever gains of a technical nature homesteaders may make on the issue of survival.



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☆ FEB 10	RUDE GIRLS
☆ MAR 10	FORTALÉZE
☆ APR 7	FRED KOHLER
☆ MAY 12	HOLIDAY CLOCKS
☆ JUN 9	SUN DOGS ?

But we did teach them something. Several were struck by how much work even the pared-down version of life is. Maybe coping with that without unfair aids and borrowings, of course, is the limiting factor on both material and spiritual development.

Several made arrangements for follow-up visits or internships. I greatly enjoyed their visit and look forward to more contact with these heartening, promising young men and women.

Jonathon Von Ranson

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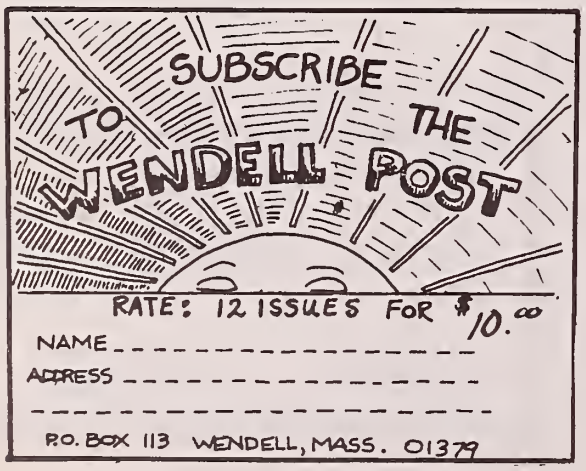
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